

Appl. No. 10/086,912
 Response dated September 15, 2005
 Reply to Office Action of March 15, 2005

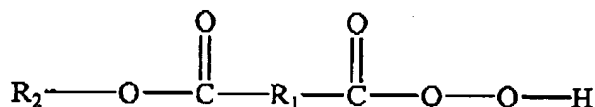
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A stabilized ester peroxycarboxylic acid composition comprising consisting of:

about 4 wt-% to about 10 wt-% an ester peroxycarboxylic acid having the formula



wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently an organic group or a substituted organic group; and about 0.5 wt-% to about 80 wt-% C₂ or higher alcohol; the C₂ or higher alcohol being suitable for use in food products, for cleaning or sanitizing food processing equipment or materials, for use in a health-care environment, or a combination thereof;

the C₂ or higher alcohol being effective to stabilize the ester peroxycarboxylic acid, without an additional stabilizer, and maintain at least about 30 % of antimicrobial activity of the composition for at least about 3 months;

buffer effective to maintain pH about 4 to about 7,

the buffer consisting of citric acid and citrate salt, of phosphoric acid and phosphoric acid salt, or of boric acid and boric acid salt; and

wherein the composition ~~has no~~ being free of added stabilizer.

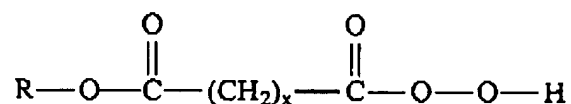
2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the C₂ or higher alcohol comprises ethanol, isopropanol, n-propanol, n-butanol, isobutanol, tert-butanol, pentanol, glycerol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, hexylene glycol, glycerine, polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polybutylene glycol, or a combination thereof.

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3-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein R_1 or R_2 is an alkyl, linear, cyclic, aromatic or saturated organic group.

31. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 30, wherein ester peroxycarboxylic acid is an alkyl ester peroxycarboxylic acid having the formula



wherein R represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbons and x is 0 to 5.

32. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 31 wherein x is 1 to 4.

33. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 32 wherein x is 2, 3 or 4.

34. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 31 wherein the alkyl group is a straight chain.

35. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 31 wherein the alkyl group is branched.

36. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 31 wherein R is a methyl, ethyl, propyl, or isobutyl group.